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General Assembly

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Sixty-eighth session
Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)
Agenda item 5
Election of the officers of the Main Committees

Letter dated 11 June 2014 from the Chair of the Arab Group for the month of June 2014 addressed to the Chair of the Fourth Committee

On behalf of the Arab Group and in my capacity as Chair of the Arab Group for the month of June 2014, I wish to refer to the upcoming elections of the President of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly and the Chairs and members of the Bureaux of the Main Committees of the General Assembly, which are scheduled to be held on 16 June 2014.

In this regard, I wish to convey the firm rejection by the States members of the Arab Group of the candidacy of Israel, on behalf of the Western European and Other States Group, for one of the Vice-Chair posts of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee). The Arab Group deems as totally unacceptable and absurd the candidacy of Israel, an occupying Power for the past 47 years, for the post of Vice-Chair of the Fourth Committee, the Main Committee tasked with addressing decolonization issues and other critical and sensitive issues, including those related to the Palestine refugees, peacekeeping and human rights, and the work of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories.

We question the credibility and eligibility for Bureau membership of a Member State that stands in flagrant and deliberate violation of all of the United Nations resolutions relevant to it, including countless resolutions adopted by the Fourth Committee and the General Assembly regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the question of Palestine as a whole, and that consistently acts in blatant disrespect and violation of the Charter of this Organization. Moreover, its negative voting record against the majority of resolutions under the agenda items specific to the Fourth Committee, as well as its repeated, provocative statements in past deliberations of the Committee, are glaring indications of the contempt that Israel has for this Committee and the work and role of the Assembly as a whole, particularly in connection with the question of Palestine.

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In my capacity as Chair of the Arab Group, I respectfully request the circulation of the present letter to all Member States for their immediate and valuable consideration.

(*Signed*) Alya Ahmed Saif **Al-Thani**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations
Chair of the Arab Group for the month of June 2014

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Agenda item 5
Election of the officers of the Main Committees

Letter dated 13 June 2014 from the Chair of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation addressed to the Chair of the Fourth Committee

I am writing to you in my capacity as Chair of the Ambassadorial Group of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), and I wish to refer to the forthcoming elections of the Chairs and Members of the Bureaus of the Main Committees of the General Assembly scheduled for Monday, 16 June 2014.

I would like to express the strong rejection of the OIC member States of the candidacy of Israel, on behalf of the Western European and other States Group, for a Vice-Chair post of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee). OIC considers the candidacy of Israel, an occupying power for several decades, for the post of Vice-Chair of the Fourth Committee not only unacceptable, but also a mockery, especially for a committee that is tasked mainly with addressing decolonization and other sensitive issues, including those issues related to the Palestinian refugees, human rights and peacekeeping and the work of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories.

CIC believes that there is neither credibility nor eligibility with regard to the candidacy of a State that has constantly violated all the United Nations resolutions relevant to its decades-long occupation, including the resolutions adopted by the Fourth Committee itself and those adopted by the General Assembly and the Security Council. It should be underscored that Israel has acted in deliberate violation and disrespect of the Charter of the United Nations, and voted against most resolutions of the Fourth Committee, which gives a clear indication about Israel's disrespect of the Fourth Committee and the work of the General Assembly, especially in matters related to the question of Palestine.

In my capacity as Chair of OIC, I respectfully request the circulation of the present letter to all Member States for their immediate and valuable consideration.

(*Signed*) Mamadi **Touré**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Guinea to the United Nations
Chair of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation

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